

Directions for Postulants Desiring to Become Candidates



THE Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania has adopted a Form of Procedure for its dealing with Postulants who desire to be recommended to the Bishop as Candidates for Holy Orders. In all normal cases this procedure contemplates various steps to be taken in sequence during a period of from 15 to 18 months. It is of importance that the Postulant should observe the definite but simple provisions and should do so with exactness and promptitude: as failure or delay may result in his serious embarrassment. In order to make the matter as clear as possible, the Committee issues the following schedule of procedure.

Edward M. Jefferys, President

W. P. Barba, Secretary

November 12, 1935

SCHEDULE OF PROCEDURE

Step 1. To be taken by the POSTULANT.

At least six months before the Postulant begins his strictly theological studies, whether in a theological seminary or under private direction, (i.e., normally, on or before March 15th), he should make his first approach to the Standing

Committee for recommendation to the Bishop as a Candidate. This involves the submission to the Standing Committee (through the Bishop's Office) of the following papers:

1. An application, signed by himself, requesting the Standing Committee to recommend him to the Bishop. (See Canon 2, § I., [a]).
2. The Bishop's certificate of his admission as a Postulant (received by the Postulant when the Bishop so admitted him.) (See Canon 2, § I., [b]).
3. The certificate from the Minister and Vestry of his parish,—or its equivalent. (See Canon 2, § I., [d]).

Step 2. To be taken by the Standing Committee.

When the Standing Committee has duly received the above mentioned papers from the applicant, and, from the Bishop's office, the physician's report made when he applied to be admitted Postulant together with any other papers then submitted, the Committee will appoint from its membership a sub-committee of two to interview the applicant. This sub-committee shall report to the Standing Committee its judgment as to the fitness and promise of the applicant, and as to whether he should be encouraged to enter upon the first, or probationary, year of theological study. (This sub-committee will keep in touch with the postulant during his first year of theological study, so that it may be able to confirm or modify its first report when the postulant's papers again come before the Standing Committee for action [See Step 5, below]).

Step 3. To be taken by the POSTULANT.

Before the Postulant begins his seminary studies, or at the earliest possible time thereafter, he should appear before the Examining Chaplains for his "Candidate's Examinations". (See Canon 2, § V.) The result of these examinations will be transmitted by the Bishop to the Standing Committee. (See Canon 2, § VI, and Canon 6, § IV.)—This step should be taken in the spring or early autumn of the year in which theological study is to begin.

Step 4. The POSTULANT should see that this certificate is forth-coming.

At the close of his first year's theological study a certificate must be submitted to the Standing Committee from the Theological Seminary where the Postulant is enrolled, or from the the clergyman under whose direction he is pursuing his studies, "showing that he has completed one year's work satisfactorily and is otherwise qualified to serve in the ministry of this Church." (See Canon 2, § I., [c]). This paper should be available in June.

Step 5. To be taken by the Standing Committee.

On receipt of this last mentioned paper, the Standing Committee shall call for the final report of the sub-committee which has been following the work of the applicant, and shall take final action, recommending to the Bishop that he be, or be not, made a Candidate for Holy Orders. This action shall be taken, if circumstances permit, at the June meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee, in adopting (with the Bishop's approval) this procedure, are desirous only of fulfilling their share of responsibility in the choice of those who are to be the ministers of the Church. They feel that, in so doing, it is incumbent upon them, not only to weigh the formal papers presented to them, but, through their sub-committees, to gain some personal knowledge of each applicant.

The Standing Committee believe that the procedure above outlined is applicable in all normal cases. They recognize that there will be exceptional cases; and these will be considered and dealt with upon their merits.

The Postulant is urged to consult the Bishop's Office upon details of procedure and to procure there the printed forms that are available for some of the required papers.

Time Schedule for the above process.

First Year (i.e. during the year before entering seminary)
Before March 15th : Step 1.

First Year: Spring or early Autumn : Step 3.

Second Year: (i.e. the first year of theological study)
At its conclusion in June : Step 4.

